

Executive Headteacher: Miss M Davies, MA (Cantab), MA (International Business), DESS, NPQH, PQSI  
Head of School (Acting): Mr A Johnson, BA, MSc

81 Crescent Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5SL

Tel: 0118 9668065 Fax: 0118 926 6111  
Email: [MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk)  
Web: [www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk](http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/MESReading](https://twitter.com/MESReading)

February 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Year 8 Options – Further Information for Parents and Pupils

I am writing to further inform you of the important events taking place in the next few weeks which aim to offer guidance and support for both you and your child regarding their options choices. The calendared dates are shown below.

Date	Event	Detail	
10 February	Full Report	The formal written report from your child's current subject teachers.	
10 February	Key Stage 4 booklet	Options booklet containing information about the options process and the subjects your child can opt for.	
	Options form published	The form to be filled in to express your child's preferences. This will contain a recommendation about the types of subjects your child is best suited to study.	
1 March	Key Stage 4 6.30pm Options Evening	Information about the options process and the opportunity to meet with teachers from the optional subjects.	
7 March	8G1; 8G2, 8P1 Progress Meeting	The meeting for parents and students in these tutor groups.	An opportunity to meet with your child's current teachers to discuss progress etc. Mr Johnson will also be available to discuss the options process and selections with you.
9 March	8P2, 8T1, 8T2 Progress Meeting	The meeting for parents and students in these tutor groups.	
13 March (p.m.)	Options surgeries	Mr Johnson will be available, for 15 minute consultations with parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options.	
14 March (a.m.)	Options surgeries	Mr Johnson will be available, for 15 minute consultations with parents and students who may have further questions or issues about the options.	
17 March	Option form submission	Option forms submitted by Year 8 students to their tutor.	

## **Options Booklet, Recommended Pathway and Option Form**

On Friday 10 February your child will be given an options booklet, a letter giving the school's recommendation as to which curriculum pathway your child should follow including an options form which should be filled in and returned on by Friday 17 March.

The options booklet contains information about the curriculum pathways and details of each subject on offer. This can be used, in conjunction with the information evening and progress meetings, to help you and your child make options choices.

### **Curriculum Pathways**

To help guide students and parents in their selection of subjects we place all students into Options Pathways. These do not represent any kind of streaming or setting process. Rather they are a means of guiding students and parents towards the subjects that experience has shown those students in that particular pathway are likely to succeed in.

These pathways are:

Blue – students are required to study the English Baccalaureate (please see below for further details).

Green – students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate but may do so if they choose.

Yellow – students are not required to study the English Baccalaureate and who may be best advised to study practical or vocational subjects.

### **Core Curriculum**

Irrespective of their pathway all students in the year group will study for GCSEs in:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- At least one of History or Geography
- Religious Studies

### **English Baccalaureate**

The majority of students in Year 8 will be required to study those subjects that make up what is known as the English Baccalaureate. These are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

The students who will be required to do so are those who are above average ability as measured by the levels achieved in their Key Stage 2 assessments.

All other students will be given a wide range of subjects to select from. Students who are not required to study the English Baccalaureate will still have the option of selecting a language, History or Geography as appropriate.

## **Modern Foreign Languages**

Any student choosing or required to study a Modern Foreign Language will be able to select from a choice of French or Spanish. The criteria for eligibility for this is as follows:

French – any student currently studying French will be able to select French

Spanish – any student currently studying Spanish will be able to select Spanish.

## **Economics and Computer Studies**

Some students will have the opportunity to select these subjects as part of their Key Stage 4 options. Given the highly academic nature of these subjects, students will need to have achieved at least a Level 3M in Mathematics and English by the time of the full school report in February 2017.

## **Options Information Evening**

There will be an Options Information Evening for all year 8 parents and students on Wednesday 1 March 2017. Please note that due to the large numbers that are expected to be attending, the evening has been divided into two.

Students and their parents in 8G1, 8G2 and 8P1 are invited to attend their meeting in the main hall at 6.30pm. The meeting will give an outline of the options process and the factors that students and their parents should consider. When the presentation is over at approximately 6.50pm, parents and students will be invited to tour the classrooms where representatives of the curriculum teams for Key Stage 4 option subjects will be available to answer questions about the subjects on offer.

Students and their parents in 8P2, 8T1 and 8T2 are invited to attend their meeting in the Main Hall at 7.00pm. Again the meeting will give an outline of the options process and the factors that students and their parents should consider. When this presentation is over at approximately 7.20pm, parents and students will be invited to tour the classrooms where representatives of the curriculum teams for Key Stage 4 option subjects will be available to answer questions about the subjects on offer.

I should stress that this is **not** an evening to discuss the progress of individual students as the staff to whom you may be speaking will probably not know your child personally.

## **Parents' Evening**

Parent consultation meetings where you have an opportunity to meet with your child's subject staff are scheduled for Tuesday 7 March (8G1, 8G2, 8P1) and Thursday 9 March (8P2, 8T1, 8T2). Please note that pupils are encouraged to attend.

## **The Consultation Sessions**

On Monday 13 March (pm) and on Tuesday 14 March (am), I will be available to answer any questions that you may still have about your child's options. To book one of the available 15 minute appointments, please contact the school's reception from 10.00am on Monday 6 March. Please note that, unfortunately, we will not be in a position to make appointments prior to this date. Your child will also be able to attend the meeting if you wish as we will be able to arrange for them to be temporarily excused from their timetabled lessons. Please report to reception 5 minutes prior to your consultation sessions.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A Johnson**  
Head of School (Acting)